

# TO THE BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1914.

AREA (in acres) 32,164.

POPULATION (Census, 1911) 6,731.

## **Physical Features.**

Measures 14 miles by 5, extremely hilly, varied strata, lias and lower oolite, chalk downs and under it the greensand.

## **Climate.**

Equable, humid, prevailing wind, south-west.

## **Social Conditions and Chief Occupations.**

Mainly agricultural. Flax mills at Pymore and Burton Bradstock. Many visitors resort to the district, especially Charmouth, Chideock, Eype, and Burton Bradstock.

## **Poor Law Relief and Gratuitous Medical Relief.**

Bridport Rural Guardians, Bridport Union Infirmary, Bridport Hospital and Bridport Rural Isolation Hospital.

## **Water Supply.**

Chideock and Charmouth have piped public supplies. The villages of Bothenhampton and Burton Bradstock obtain most of their supply, as also the lower part of Litton Cheney, from the Bridport Waterworks Company. The Council has a list of the water supplies of every house in the district. Analysis of water has been made at three places, two were satisfactory, one which was unsatisfactory rain water was utilised.

## **Rivers and Streams.**

There has been no complaints of pollution.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Bothenhampton and Charmouth have systems of drainage.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

Mostly water closets in Charmouth, Chideock, Bothenhampton and parts of Burton Bradstock which have a water supply. In other places privies and earth closets.

## **Scavenging and Disposal of Refuse.**

There is no destructor, removal of house refuse and cleansing of closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools, etc., is done by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

## **Sanitary Inspection of District.**

Number of Statutory Notices, 52; Complied with, 10.

## **Premises Controllable by Bye-Laws.**

Number 32½. Twine, Butter Factory, Jam Factory, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses and Dairies.

No common lodging houses. Houses are let in lodgings at Chideock, Eype, Charmouth and Burton Bradstock. No cellar dwellings. Gipsies vans and tents are often on the downs. There are no offensive trades carried on in the district.

## **Schools.**

The Sanitary condition was satisfactory, also the water supply for flushing urinals and closets. There was closure of the following: Bothenhampton for measles, Chideock measles, St. Gabriel's measles, Whitchurch measles, Askerwell measles, Swyre measles.

## **Milk Supply.**

No complaints of unwholesomeness. None tuberculous.

## **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

Their administration comes under your bye-laws. There are 29 dairymen, cowkeepers and milk sellers on the Register. The Regulations are observed, they have been inspected. In two cases improvements respecting drainage was carried out. There are no regular milkshops.

## **Bakehouses.**

Number, 10. All inspected and found sanitary. No underground ones.

## **Slaughter Houses.**

Number, 9. Licensed 2. Registered 3. All several times inspected and were found sanitary.

## **Food Inspection.**

No carcasses condemned for tuberculosis. No articles of diet unfit for food or unwholesome. Condition of premises satisfactory.

## **Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**

Formal samples taken and sent for analysis: Butter 1. Castor oil 1. Cheese 1. Sago 1. Sugar 1. Remarks—Sample of sago found adulterated. Cautioned by Chief Constable.



## **Housing.**

General description—Mr. Courtney Clifton, a Local Government Board Inspector, again inspected Burton Bradstock *re* the Housing question and reported to you and the Local Government Board—the shortage of Labourers Cottages there is not so much on account of deaths—the absence of men who joined the Army and Navy and other removals. This also is the same as regards the overcrowding. There is not much to complain of in other parts of the district as the defects have been remedied since his inspection in the year 1913.

Overcrowding, 5, all remedied; Number of new houses, 3. Building Bye-laws are adopted.

Action under 1909 Act (Section 17). Tabular statement.—Number of houses inspected, 307. Number unfit for habitation, 2. Number of representations to L.A. with view to closing orders, 2. Number of closing orders, 2. Number remedied without closing orders, 33. Number remedied after closing orders, 2. Number demolished, *nil*.

General character of defects—Damp walls, windows not weatherproof, dilapidations, dampness and bad drainage. No proceedings under Section XV. *re* the notices served in respect of 46 defective houses on the Pitt Rivers estate at Burton Bradstock. A thatcher has been at work almost continuously repairing the roofs and two or three urgent matters have received attention. Also the local builder has informed your Inspector that he has received instructions to proceed with the repairs of the defective cottages immediately he has finished the re-building of a Farm House which was destroyed by fire on the Pitt Rivers estate at Burton Bradstock. No doubt there has been a shortage of masons' labourers on account of the war and the epidemic of influenza.

## **Local and Adoptive Acts.**

None during the year.

## **Workshops and Workplaces.**

Number on Register, 21. All several times inspected. All satisfactory.

## **Sanitary Administration.**

The Sanitary Inspector works under and reports to the M.O.H. Both Inspector and M.O.H. attend and report at your monthly meetings.

## **Chemical Work.**

By Clinical Association.

## **Bacteriological Work.**

By Clinical Association.

## **Infectious Diseases.**

20 Cases notified as under: *Small-pox* 1, *Diphtheria* 7, *Scarlet Fever* 2, *Pulmonary Tuberculosis* 6, other *Tuberculosis* 4.


*Re Smallpox.* On February 25th, I received a telegram from Dr. Barclay, M.O.H., for Weymouth, that a case of Malignant Variola had been removed on the previous Friday from the house of Mr. Butcher, Burton Bradstock, confirming the telegram. In the evening I received a letter to this effect: That a case of Confluent and Hemorrhagic Small-pox, had been removed from the Princess Christian Hospital at Weymouth, to his Small-pox Hospital there. The case was that of a Mrs. Stewart, residing in Burton Bradstock with her father, Mr. Butcher, and was removed to the Princess Christian Hospital at Weymouth, as suffering from rheumatism. Rash appeared on the 23rd of the month, the woman was too ill to answer questions. I shall esteem it a favour if you can give any information as to the probable source of the disease.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. BARCLAY,

M.O.H. for Weymouth.

On receipt of telegram, I at once saw Dr. Manby, medical attendant for Mrs. Stewart, he informed me that he sent her to the Princess Christian Hospital at Weymouth, as she had previously been under the care of Dr. Laurie there, but that he had no thought of small-pox when he sent her away. The case proved fatal. On the 26th of February, with Dr. Robinson, County Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Wyatt, your Inspector, I went to Burton Bradstock, to investigate the matter. It appears, Mrs. Stewart was removed to Weymouth on February 20th, in a victoria, driven by Mr. W. Gale, and inside with her were her sister Ellen White and Mrs. Lucy Northover, village midwife. On inquiry it appeared that Mrs. Stewart had not left Burton since she came there in November, 1913, she had not been visited by any sailors, she had received a letter from her husband, a naval man in China every week, but nothing else. We could get at no other definite source of infection. Mr. Wyatt, your Sanitary Inspector, was with us, and used the most improved means of fumigation and disinfection, and burnt what could not be disinfected. All the contacts clothes were at once disinfected, the adults not allowed to follow their occupations, the children kept away from school until we gave them permission to return. The houses were disinfected as also the victoria. I re-vaccinated all the contacts with success, and at once reported to Dr. Buchanan, at the Local Government Board, and kept constant observation of the contacts as long as was necessary. On the evening of March 13th., Dr. A. Thomson, personally notified me a case of small-pox, Agnes Burt, aged 29 years, at Spyway, Askerswell, and on the notification certificate, recommended her removal to the Rural Isolation Hospital, she was removed the same night, and as there were not any cases in the Hospital, I converted it into a Small-pox Hospital, and obtained a small-pox



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nurse from London to look after the case, in conjunction with the resident nurse, and at once reported it to Dr. Buchanan, and the Local Government Board. On the following morning with Dr Robinson, M.O.H., and Mr. Wyatt your Sanitary Inspector, I visited Spyway, and we investigated matters. In the cottage lived Mary Burt who was removed the previous night to your Isolation Hospital. John Burt 33 years old and (3 children aged respectively 9 years, 5 years and 3 years) also in the same house was Mrs. Symonds, Mrs. Burt's mother, whose home was at Brighthay, North Chideock, Bridport, she came a few hours before her daughter's removal and helped to dress her. The husband carried his wife downstairs to the ambulance. In the adjoining house, lived her husband's father, mother and brother. It was most difficult to get any information here. I treated them all as contacts. Mr. Wyatt carried out the fumigation and disinfection of the houses and premises together with the clothing of the contacts who I treated in the same manner as at Burton, and ordered Mrs. Symonds to look after the husband and children, and not to return to Brighthay, until I gave her permission to do so. John Burt and Alfred Burt as well as the children were re-vaccinated, but Mrs. Symonds, Kate Burt and George Burt refused to be re-vaccinated. I visited Mrs. Burt at your Isolation Hospital, who Dr. Thomson had handed over to my care and found her suffering from well marked small-pox; she informed me she had 4 brothers in the Navy, some of whom had visited her about the second week in July and had also written to her. During the second week in January one brother from India had called at Spyway, and slept with her husband while she was staying with her mother at Brighthay, the following day he came to Brighthay and stayed there with her for a few days before she returned to Spyway. I re-vaccinated the Matron, Mrs. Ell and her husband, the porter at the Hospital. I also gave instructions that the gates were to be kept locked, and Mr. and Mrs. Ell not allowed to visit outside; and employed Mr. Joy an ex-warder of Portland Prison, to convey what was necessary outside the gates and fence of the Hospital. On March 20th, Dr. J. P. Candler, Local Government Board Inspector, called and had a long interview with me, he said he came on behalf of Dr. Buchanan, who was investigating the source of the small-pox cases. We visited the Isolation Hospital, Spyway and Burton Bradstock, he was satisfied as to the measures that had been taken, you will see from your Inspector's Report, houses were sprayed, disinfected, fumigated and lime-washed. The clothes, bedding, &c., disinfected, and what could not be disinfected, burnt. I allowed the male contacts to resume their employments on April 14th. Mrs. Symonds returned home to Brighthay as soon as her daughter returned home to Spyway. As regards the children, Askerswell Schools were closed on account of measles. The small-pox nurse left on April 18th, and Mrs. Burt, who made an excellent recovery returned home on April 25th. As regards the source, as far as we could ascertain, it was most likely due to sailors or to letters from infected areas, since these were the common factors both in this and in the case at Burton Bradstock. In my opinion everything was done by your Council's action to prevent the spread of infection, with the best possible result.

#### DIPHTHERIA (7).

Five cases were removed to the Rural Isolation Hospital, 4 from the Bridport Union Infirmary and one from Axon Barn, Symondsburly. One case at Monkton Wylde was treated at home, and one at Pymore Terrace was also treated at home, which proved fatal. This case in my opinion should have been removed to the Isolation Hospital on my advice, and I advised it, but objection was raised and I had no power to compel removal.

#### SCARLET FEVER (2).

One at Bradpole, a mild case, treated at home, one at Whitchurch Canonicorum, mild case (imported) was also treated at home. No return cases or carrier cases. As regards unnotifiable diseases, measles were prevalent during the early months of the year, at Bothenhampton, Chideock, St. Gabriels, Whitchurch Canonicorum, Askerswell and Swyre, as in evidence the closure of the Schools. Means of disinfection were same as in previous reports, but all the modern latest methods adopted.

### Rural Isolation Hospital.

Beds, 12. 3 or 4 cases can be concurrently treated. Also Berthon hut for small-pox cases, if required for both Rural and Urban districts.

### Tuberculosis.

Cases (10). 7 pulmonary, 3 other forms, all treated at home. One imported, the necessary sanitary precautions taken.

### Prevention of Infantile Mortality.

Prevention of Infantile Mortality, due measures taken by M.O.H. and Council.

As regards circulars from the Local Government Board *re* the co-operation of Sanitary Authorities relating to billeting in camps (issue of Army orders Dec. 1st, 1914) no camps have been formed in your District, and only a few men in billets at night at Seatown and Swyre in connection with the troops at West Bay.

### Vital Statistics.

|   |     |     |     |       |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| The Population estimated to middle of 1914                | ... | ... | ... | 6,800 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 inhabitants                          | ... | ... | ... | 16.1  |
| Nett Death Rate   | ... | ... | ... | 12.2  |
| Zymotic Death Rate  | ... | ... | ... | 14    |
| Infantile Mortality, deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births | ... | ... | ... | 54.54 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,710.                        |     |     |     |       |

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. E. HAY,

Bridport, March 25th, 1915.

Medical Officer of Health.

